THE MINJISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) There has been a positive growth of 5.5 per cent in tourist arrivals in January 2000 as compared to January 1999.

(b) There is a positive growth of 4.1 per cent and 5.7 per cent in tourist arrivals during first three months of the year 2000 and 1999 as compared to the same period of corresponding previous years.

(c) Various measures proposed to attract foreign tourists include development and improvement of tourist infrastructure facilities, publicity and marketing efforts in the overseas market and use of information technology. Some of the specific measures proposed include discounts by Air India through 'Super Summer Saver Scheme', discounts offered by heritage hotels during Millennium year, introduction of A/C Taxis by Delhi Goverrmient in the capital, Millennium Trains, Millennium golf and Polo Tournaments and installation of Touch Screen Information Kiosks.

Proposed Investment in Tourism Sector

†2739. SHRI AN ANTRAYDEVSH ANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount required to be invested in tourism sector in the country according to Government sources;

(b) the main channels through which this amount is to be invested in tourism sector;

(c) whether Government have formulated any phased programme for the investment of said amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CUUTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) : It is estimated that an amount of about Rs. 48,000 crores is required as an investment for development of tourism infrastructure in the coimtiy which would include investment from Government sector partially and mainly from the private sector including foreign investment.

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†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.